

	United States Department of Agriculture  Forest Service	<b>NEWS RELEASE</b>	<b>KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST</b> 1711 South Main Street, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath">www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</a>	
March 13, 2012	<b>For Immediate Release</b>	Contact: Tom Lavagnino Public Affairs Officer at: (530) 841-4485 <a href="mailto:tlavagnino@fs.fed.us">tlavagnino@fs.fed.us</a>		

## March 1<sup>st</sup> Snow Survey Results for the Scott River Watershed

**Yreka, CA** – The March 1<sup>st</sup> snow survey results for five snow courses in the Scott River Watershed have been measured and compared to previous years. These measurements are a part of the statewide California Cooperative Snow Survey program, which is operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

The survey shows that the snow depth is 48% of normal and the water content is 49% of normal, as compared to the historical values for February (Table 1). These readings are within one percent of last month's values. Continued warm temperatures and low precipitation for this time of year have contributed to the current snowpack.

The snow surveys are measured monthly during the winter and spring months (Feb.-May). District employees travel to pre-determined sites to collect information about snow accumulation in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest, west of Scott Valley. The measuring sites are established locations that quantify snow depth and moisture content. Access to these snow sites vary, some are located closer to forest roads while others require hours of travel by snow shoes and/or snowmobile.

The snow depth and water content are measured and calculated with a specially designed and calibrated aluminum tube. The depth of snow is recorded and the water equivalent of the snow core is derived by weighing the snow sample. This information is used to help the State forecast the amount of water available for agriculture, power generation, recreation, and stream flow releases later in the year. Many months of winter and the spring rainy season remain, with most locations historically reaching their annual maximum by late-March and early-April. The next snow survey will occur in April.

For more information, go to the California Department of Water Resources Website: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow> or contact Verna Yin at the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District in Fort Jones, CA, (530) 468-1241.

**Table 1: March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 Snow Survey Results for the Scott River Sub-Basin on the Klamath National Forest**

Snow Course	Snow Depth			Equivalent Water Content		
Name	3/1/2012	Historic Average	Current vs. Historic Average	3/1/2012	Historic Average	Current vs. Historic Average
<b>Middle Boulder #1</b> 6600' elevation	18.2"	67.1"	27%	11.2"	27.4"	41%
	<i>(Established 1946)</i>					
<b>Middle Boulder #3</b> 6200' elevation	26.9"	63.8"	42%	11.3"	24.2"	47%
	<i>(Established 1948)</i>					
<b>Dynamite Meadow</b> 5700' elevation	24.8"	49.5"	50%	9.6"	17.0"	56%
	<i>(Established 1955)</i>					
<b>Swampy John</b> 5500' elevation	52.8"	74.3"	71%	14.4"	26.0"	55%
	<i>(Established 1951)</i>					
<b>Scott Mountain</b> 5900' elevation	28.0"	55.5"	50%	9.5"	21.2"	45%
	<i>(Established 1986)</i>					
<b>Total average:</b>	<b>48%</b>			<b>49%</b>		

Figure 1. March 2012 - Snow Survey at Swampy John. Carol Ballow is holding the scale with her ski pole, Sue Tebbe is taking notes in the background, and Maija Meneks is weighing the core.

